 systems Development & Improvement Center

Deafblindness: Raising Awareness on Dual Sensory Impairment

Presentation Topics

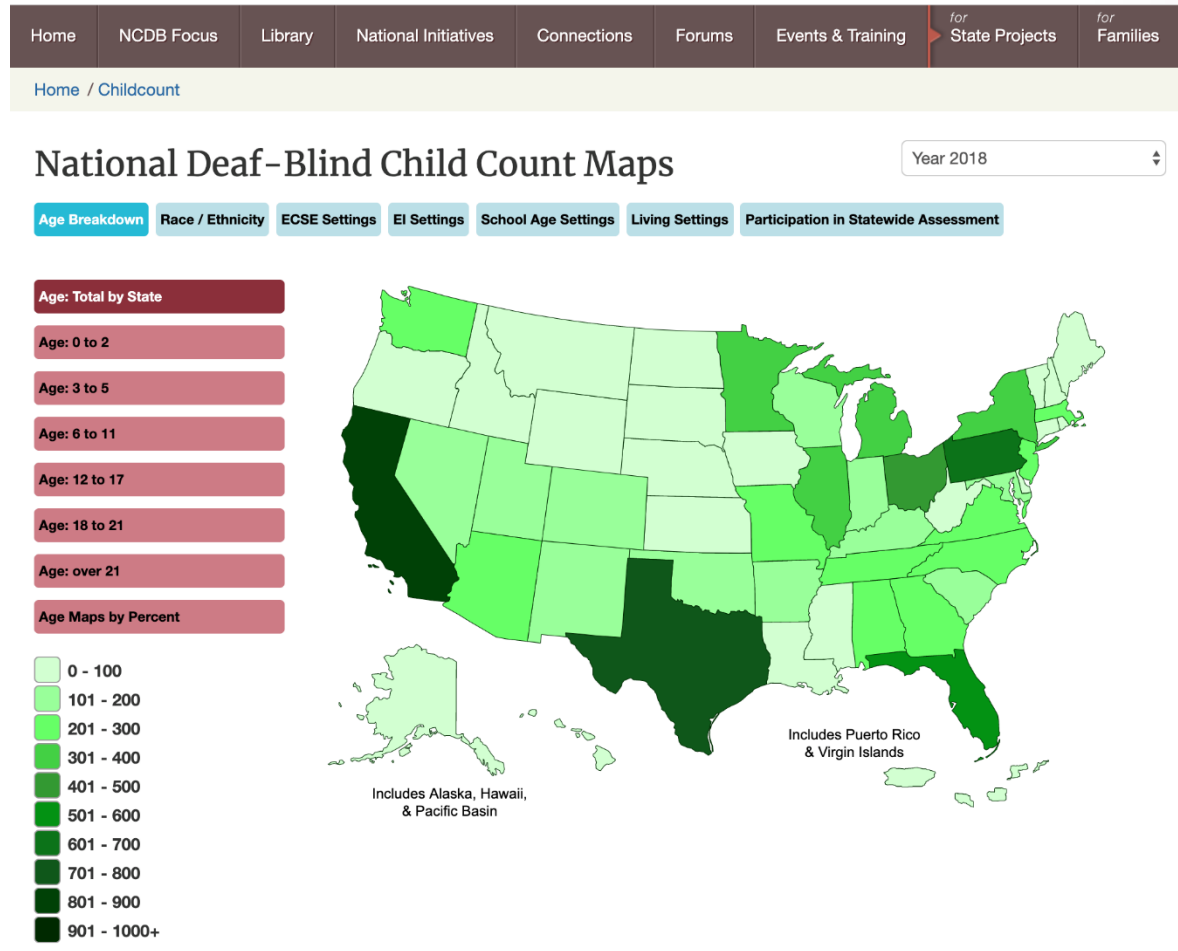
- **What is deafblindness (combined hearing and vision loss)?**
- **Ohio's definition of deafblindness**
- **Common causes of hearing-vision loss**
- **The importance of early identification of deafblindness**
- **Ohio Center for Deafblind Education (OCDBE) services**
- **Registration process for the Ohio Deafblind Census**

Reflection Question

Are you able to identify children you are currently working with, or have previously worked with, that would be considered as having deafblindness (combined hearing and vision loss)?



National Deaf-Blind Child Count



Ohio Child Count

- Ohio's current Deafblind Child Count reported 405 individuals
- There is a clear need to increase awareness to identify and provide services to individuals, families, and service providers.
- <https://ohiodeafblind.org/deafblind-census/interactive-census-map>



Deafblindness is a *spectrum* of combined hearing-vision loss.



What is Combined Hearing-Vision Loss?

- It is important to understand that a child does not need to be profoundly deaf and totally blind to be identified as deafblind.
- Deafblindness is **any** degree of a combined hearing-vision loss.
- A child may be born with deafblindness, or deafblindness can be caused by complications from birth, or acquired anytime.

Which of these is **NOT** true about Deafblindness?

- a. It describes a spectrum of combined hearing and vision loss.
- b. Some people with deafblindness have some usable vision and hearing.
- c. It is only seen in those children who are diagnosed with multiple disabilities under IDEA.
- d. Some people with deafblindness will have other medical needs.

Deafblindness = Combined Hearing-Vision Loss

The Ohio Operating Standards for the Education of Children with Disabilities states, “Multiple disabilities does not include deaf-blindness.” (pg. 20)



Hearing and Vision Assessments

- If you suspect that your child, or a child you are working with, might have a hearing or a vision loss, the following decision trees (based on age) can assist you in determining whether or not there is a dual sensory loss.
- To access the assessment go to the following link to get started.
- <https://ohiodeafblind.org/hearing-vision-assessments>

Definition of Deafblindness

- A child does not need to be profoundly deaf or totally blind to be considered deafblind.
- Individuals who are profoundly deaf and totally blind make up only 6 percent of the individuals who have deafblindness.
- A child with any degree of combined hearing and vision loss may be considered as deafblind regardless of the child's Part B or Part C identification.

Many Children with Combined Hearing-Vision Loss

- Have some usable vision and hearing
- May be educationally identified under IDEA as having multiple disabilities, vision impairment or hearing impairment
- May have other physical and developmental disabilities
- May experience hearing-vision loss over time due to a syndrome

Which of the following is true?

- a. Vision and hearing loss will not change over time.
- b. Children with combined vision and hearing loss cannot use assistive devices.
- c. An IDEA diagnosis of multiple disabilities is required for classification of deafblindness.
- d. The majority of people with deafblindness have some residual hearing and/or vision.

Etiologies of Deafblindness

Include:

- Hereditary/chromosomal syndromes and disorders (e.g., CHARGE syndrome, Usher syndrome)
- Pre-Natal/congenital complications (e.g., CMV, Fetal Alcohol Syndrome, maternal drug use)
- Post-Natal/non-congenital complications (e.g., meningitis, severe head injury)
- Complications associated with prematurity

Source: National Center on Deaf-Blindness

Spectrum of Hearing-Vision Loss for Deafblind Identification

Vision Loss with correction

- Low vision (visual acuity of 20/70-20/200)
- Legally blind (visual acuity of 20/200 or worse, or a field restriction of 20 degrees)
- Light perception only
- Totally blind
- Cortical visual impairment
- Diagnosed progressive loss
- Functional vision loss

Hearing Loss with correction

- Mild (26-40 dB loss)
- Moderate (41-55 dB loss)
- Moderately severe (56-70 dB loss)
- Severe (71-90 dB loss)
- Profound (91+ dB loss)
- Diagnosed progressive loss
- Central auditory processing disorder (CAPD)
- Auditory neuropathy
- Functional hearing loss

Which of the following is **NOT** a common cause of combined hearing and vision loss?

- a. Maternal trauma while pregnant
- b. Chromosomal syndromes and disorder such as CHARGE syndrome
- c. Post-natal meningitis
- d. Complications of prematurity

Complete the following sentence:
Deafblindness at birth can be caused
by_____

- a. paternal substance abuse during pregnancy.
- b. poor maternal diet.
- c. maternal substance abuse while pregnant.
- d. extreme maternal stress.

Importance of Early Identification of Combined Hearing-Vision Loss

Even a small loss in both hearing and vision can impact a child's development. Early identification of combined hearing-vision loss can help provide:

- Proper interventions for hearing and vision losses
- Identification of and intervention for communication needs
- Services to address the child's individual needs (e.g., mobility)

Washington Sensory Disability Services

Hand Under Hand Exploration video
<https://youtu.be/-8nLvezuOyA>

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Deafblindness is known as a “disability of access” because

- a. There are no services available.
- b. It impacts how people can access people and information.
- c. Students with deafblindness cannot attend mainstream schools.
- d. There are no assistive devices available to support both hearing and vision loss.

Early Identification of Deafblindness is important because

- a. Children need to be placed in separate schools as early as possible.
- b. Cochlear implants can be used to fix hearing problems.
- c. Children will always have intellectual disabilities that need to be addressed.
- d. Children will have earlier access to proper interventions.

What is the Ohio Center for Deafblind Education (OCDBE)?

- OCDBE, operated through the University of Cincinnati Systems Development & Improvement Center, is a federally funded project under the United States Department of Education, Office of Special Education Programs.
- All children with deafblindness, birth through age 21, are eligible for services offered by OCDBE.

OCDBE Goals

- Strengthen and extend the capacity of Ohio's Pre-K to grade 12 education system to prepare children with combined hearing-vision loss;
- To promote earlier and more accurate identification of children with combined hearing-vision loss;
- Provide support and services to children with combined hearing-vision loss, their families, educators, and agency personnel who service them; and
- Provide information, resources, consultation, training, and professional development opportunities.

More information about the Ohio Center for Deafblind Education may be found at www.ohiodeafblind.org

Services Provided by OCDBE

- Current information regarding opportunities for children with combined hearing-vision loss and their families is provided through the weekly newsletter *OCDBE Updates* and other information dissemination activities
- OCDBE website with information, resources, training opportunities, and publications related to combined hearing-vision loss



OCDBE Services (cont'd)

- Facebook site that includes current information related to deafblindness
- <https://www.facebook.com/OCDBEColumbusOH/>
- No-cost consultation services for children with combined hearing-vision loss, their families, and the educators who service them through the Deafblind Technical Assistance Program
- Annual Parent Retreat
- Family Scholarships
- Parent-to-Parent Mentoring program

OCDBE Services (cont'd)

- Registration for the Ohio Census and National Child Count for children with deafblindness
- State and national resources and information on deafblindness
- Publications related to identification, early intervention, literacy, transition, postsecondary transition, and census registration
- Professional development and training opportunities for parents, general education teachers, special education teachers, paraprofessionals and related services providers

More information related to additional services provided by OCDBE may be found at <https://ohiodeafblind.org/>

Deafblind Technical Assistance Program (DBTAP)

OCDBE offers no-cost DBTAP consultation services to parents and school personnel for all children, birth through age 21 years, registered on the Ohio census. The DBTAP process involves:

- Completion of the on-line Request for Consultation Services identifying areas for consultation
- Observations of the child in the home or school setting
- A written report, including summary of observations, recommendations and resources based on areas of observation, for family and school personnel
- Follow up with family and school personnel regarding the report

The Ohio Center for Deafblind Education

Providing services in Ohio for individuals birth through 21 years with deafblindness including free collaborative technical assistance to families, education personnel and service providers through training and information dissemination.



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What is Deafblindness

The Ohio Department of Education, Office for Exceptional Children defines deafblindness as follows: "Deafblindness" means concomitant hearing and visual impairments, the combination of which causes such severe communication and other developmental and educational needs that they cannot be accommodated in special education programs solely for children with deafness or children with blindness" (Ohio Operating Standards for the

Recommended Resources

- [Explore Local Resources Near You](#)
- [Interactive Census Map of Ohio](#)
- [Register a Child](#)
- [OCDBE Library](#)
- [OCDBE Products](#)
- [Event Calendar](#)

Not Finding the Information You Need? Let Us Help.

OCDBE News & Info

[Full-time, On-campus Program Training](#)
December 01, 2015

Hearing & Vision Assessments

For a vision-hearing decision tree click [here](#).



Which of these is NOT true about the OCDBE?

- a. It is federally funded
- b. Families need to pay for services.
- c. It provides services for people birth to age 21
- d. It supports families, schools, and agencies

Ohio Deafblind Census

- The federal government requires the Ohio Center for Deafblind Education to conduct an annual deafblind census of children (birth through age 21) with combined hearing-vision loss or who are at risk for deafblindness.
- Ohio census data are required to be submitted to the federal government for inclusion in the National Deafblind Child Count.
- The census is used by the federal government to provide funding to each state. Funding is used to provide services to children with combined hearing-vision loss, their families, educators, and agency personnel who provide services to them.
- To be included in the National Deafblind child count, a child must be registered on the Ohio Census.

Which of these is NOT true about the Ohio Deafblind Census

- a. Children with combined hearing and vision loss need to be registered to attend school.
- b. The information is used by the federal government to allocate funding.
- c. Children with combined hearing and vision loss need to be registered to get services from OCDBE.
- d. Families, schools, and/or agencies can register a child any time.

Key Points

1. A child is considered to have deafblindness if the child has any degree of combined hearing and vision loss regardless of the educational identification under IDEA.
2. A child does not need to be identified deafblind under IDEA Part B or Part C to be considered as deafblind for purposes of registration on the Ohio Deafblind Census.
3. All children, birth through age 21 with a combined hearing-vision loss (deafblindness) should be registered on the Ohio Deafblind Census for reporting on the National Deafblind Child Count.

Key Points (cont'd)

4. To register a child, go to the OCDBE home page at www.ohiodeafblind.org and click on “To register a child/update a child’s record.”
5. The Ohio Center for Deafblind Education is responsible for the Ohio Deafblind Census in addition to providing services to children with deafblindness, their families, the educators, and agencies who serve them.

For more information related to deafblindness, contact the Ohio Center for Deafblind Education by clicking on “*Contact Us*” at www.ohiodeafblind.org or call 614-897-0020.

Final Reflection Question

After participating in this presentation, are you able to identify children you currently are working with or have previously worked with that would be considered as having combined hearing and vision loss?

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